

Please add the following new claims.

-- ~~16.~~ A method for operating a synchronous CDMA communications system, comprising steps of:

providing a plurality of subscriber units (SUs);

providing at least one radio base unit (RBU) for transmitting a signal comprised of a plurality of first forward channels individual ones of which being intended for receipt by one subscriber unit (SU), and for transmitting at least one second forward channel that is intended for receipt by a plurality of SUs, each of said forward channels being spread with an associated spreading code that has, ideally, an orthogonal relationship to spreading codes of the other forward channels;

receiving the transmitted signal at a SU;

despreading the received signal using a spreading code associated with the second forward channel to obtain a first measure of received signal energy;

despreading the received signal using a null spreading code that is known not to be transmitted by the RBU to obtain a second measure of received signal energy, the null spreading code having, ideally, an orthogonal relationship to the spreading codes of the forward channels; and

in the SU, adjusting a phase of the spreading code associated with the second forward channel based on the first and second measures of received signal energy.

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~~17.~~ A method as in claim ~~16~~¹, wherein the step of

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